

Harvey Landis Davis, Jr.

This particular biography is the product of a cooperative effort between Harvey's wife, sons, and brother in law. It is done with no malice aforethought and is strictly in accordance with the guide lines he might have proposed and agreed to himself. It is intended to exhibit a proper balance of respect and irascibility.

Harvey Landis Davis, Jr., son of a Methodist minister was born on Sep 28, 1930 in Durham, NC at Duke Hospital. He was one of the first babies born at the hospital. He was a paradox in that he was such a "regular fellow", such a dedicated Methodist, and such a dedicated educator that he is not identifiable as anything other than a totally multi-talented entity. In addition to all that, he was a humorist and a strong willed and effective husband and parent. He was also an irascible jokester who loved life.

As the son of a Methodist Minister, Harvey lived in many places growing up. Two significant places he lived while in high school were Elizabethtown and Littleton in NC. Harvey played many team sports including basketball and football as a quarterback. (In later years he announced high school football games and played golf as a member at Walnut Creek Country Club.)

Jay Flanagan, his future brother in law met Harvey when his father was assigned to the Farmville United Methodist church as pastor. Their first meeting was when Harvey showed up at the local high school gym with his young sister, Jean, just "casing the joint." Several high school students were shooting baskets and Harvey introduced himself. Three of us decided to ask Harvey to go to Bob Morgan's house to play basketball. Harvey dropped Jean off at home and met us there. Bob Morgan and Charles Joyner decided to be one team figuring they had the advantage because they were both six feet tall. That left Harvey and Jay as the other team at 5-10 and 5-8. It turned out Harvey was a terror under the basket and Jay had a good day shooting from the outside. We took them to the cleaners and were buddies ever after.

Harvey went into the Air Force and served during the Korean War. Had he waited until Jay finished high school they might have gone in together. As it turned out, Jay went to NCSU and finished engineering then went into the Air Force. Harvey was a radio operator on a flight crew flying out of Kwajalein in the Pacific Theatre of Operations.

After serving a 4-year hitch in the USAF he attended East Carolina earning an AB degree in History. While Harvey was in college at East Carolina, Gayle Flanagan also was there. They both finished their degrees and became teachers in Goldsboro, NC.

As they began their careers, he married Gayle (on June 26, 1955) in Farmville, NC. They had two sons, Landy and Lee. He taught in middle school and was the principal at Williams Street School in Goldsboro, NC. He had wonderful people skills and used that ability to make people feel at home all the time and especially in his work in education.